

## LATEST NEWS FROM MEXICO.

The following news from our army in Mexico, we condense from the New Orleans papers, received at our office since our last Friday's paper:

### FROM THE NEW ORLEANS PICTURES, JUNE 5.

**Arrival of the Steamship N. Orleans.**  
The steamship New Orleans, Capt. Wright, has arrived from Vera Cruz, having left there on the 1st inst. She touched on the 4th at the Brazos. Contrary to the rumors and the general apprehensions, the New Orleans has made a prosperous voyage.

Gen. Shields is doing well, we are most happy to hear, and was shortly expected at Vera Cruz.

We regret to say that Maj. R. Hammond, Paymaster U. S. A., died on board the New Orleans at Vera Cruz, on his passage from Vera Cruz.

Gen. Scott left Jalapa on the 23d ult. for Puebla, at the head of a large body of troops. We have the following brief note from Mr. Kendall of a very late date, but there is an interval of nearly a week immediately prior to this note, during which we have nothing from him. The following note is the latest intelligence received from Puebla:

PUEBLA, MEXICO, May 29, 1847.

The division of Gen. Twiggs entered this city to-day, all well. There were rumors in the morning that Gen. Bustamante and Leon were advancing to attack Gen. Scott with an immense force, but so far we have heard nothing confirming the reports. Almost every one thinks that the Americans are to have another grand battle, but when no one can divine.

The diligence does not run between this and the city of Mexico, and so far I have found it impossible to lay hands upon any papers.

No one yet knows what Gen. Scott's intentions are as regards his future movements, yet small as his force is, many think he will advance upon the capital. We shall know in a day or two.

G. W. K.  
From Capt. Lauman of the Pennsylvania volunteers, who has kindly communicated to us various information, we learn that the work of fortifying Rio Frio was going on rapidly.

The English courier, who arrived at Vera Cruz the night before the New-Orleans left, states positively there were 20,000 Mexicans engaged in the work. Other accounts reduce the number to 12,000, but on this subject the explanation, we take it, is that any number of men can be raised to defend the city, that there is scarcely a limit to the hosts that can be concentrated, if the means of feeding them can be procured. But that these hordes are well armed and equipped, or possess any discipline, we have no faith. Their very numbers will prove an embarrassment when the day of trial comes.

Although it is not mentioned positively, we presume that Gen. Scott reached Puebla on the 29th ult. Captain Lauman estimates the total effective men whom Gen. S. could muster at Puebla at 4000 men at the farthest.

This is of course independent of the recruits which have arrived in such numbers lately at Vera Cruz.

We have before given the composition of the garrison left at Jalapa under Col. Childs. At Perote five companies of the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment have been left, with some dragoons and artillery—about 850 in all.

The steamship Telegraph arrived at Vera Cruz the morning of the 1st inst. with Gen. Caldwell and a portion of his command. There were three companies of infantry and two of dragoons at Gen. Twiggs' old camping ground near Vera Cruz, awaiting Gen. Caldwell's arrival. They would proceed with him at once.

The Mexican guerrilla parties have laid waste all the ranchos on the road up, and driven off all Mexican proprietors disposed to be peaceable. The roads are not safe for travellers unless under a very considerable escort.

**Special Correspondence of the Pictorial.**  
VERA CRUZ, MAY 28, 1847.

Gentlemen—after several days of anxiety and suspense, occasioned by the capture of the diligence by a band of guerrillas, and the well known dangerous state of the road, another train has arrived at last from Jalapa, bringing us news from the army and the events that have occurred on the road during the last six days, the most important of which is the murder of Col. Sowers and seven out of his escort of five dragoons, and Lieut. McDonald, of the Rifle Regiment, in Mexico.

Col. S. arrived here about a week ago with despatches from Washington to Gen. Scott. He left this city last Saturday for Jalapa, and was murdered three miles beyond the National Bridge. From all appearances, the party must have been in ambush very near the road, and by a well directed volley brought them to the ground at once, without giving them the slightest opportunity for resistance. Thus it is again that despatches, probably of no little importance, have fallen into the hands of the enemy, and perhaps may be used to good purpose against us. The bodies of three of the party were found near the road, and were covered with sand, and the others had been dragged into the chaparral. One American horse was found shot near the place where the party was assassinated.

A gentleman from the city of Mexico, who was one of the American prisoners captured by Ureca between Camargo and Monterey, came down with the train, and has been liberated by the English Minister, he having claimed British protection. He reports all the American officers that were prisoners on parole.

A wagon master by the name of Parker and a quartermaster's clerk by the name of La Thorp, both captured on the road from Camargo to Monterey, and who were supposed to have been killed, were taken to Mexico.

The diligence, the capture of which has caused so much excitement, it appears, was robbed on its way from this place to Jalapa. It is said that no one was injured, but that the vehicle was partially destroyed and plundered of everything it contained.

Gen. Shields is doing well and may be expected here on his way home in the course of ten days.

Strong suspicions were entertained at Jalapa of an attempt to retake the place, but Col. Childs is always wide awake for any thing of that kind, and will do them up brown if the attempt is made.

Some Mexicans also came down yesterday from Jalapa, having been robbed on the road of everything they had of value; but the highwaymen showed their generosity and kindness to the unfortunate afterwards, by returning them twenty-five cents each to pay their expenses to this place.

The force of the rancheros, robbers, &c. on the road, is estimated at 5000 men, disposed as follows: 3000 men near the road and 100 on each side of it, ranging at a sufficient distance to prevent small parties from taking the by-paths.

Gen. Scott left Jalapa for Puebla on the 23d inst., at the head of about 6000 men. I cannot hear of any later news than what has been forwarded to you, from Gen. Worth's column at Puebla.

The train which came down was escorted by a body of 60 men, mostly discharged soldiers and some of the wounded at Cerro Gordo, in charge of Captain Whiting. They saw frequently on the route men on the heights, and in the distance men on the look-out.

As for local news I have none to give you. The rainy season has, it is thought, fully commenced, as we have had a sample of it during the last three days.

I have seen a private letter from Jalapa, which states that Col. Lawrence, bearer of despatches, and one of his escort, were killed on the road, but no doubt the writer was mistaken in the name, and that the rumor emanated from the murder of Col. Sowers.

FROM THE N. O. PICTURES, JUNE 5.  
VERA CRUZ, JUNE 1, 1847.

Eds. Delta.—The New-Orleans was detained yesterday on account of the painful rumor that a large portion of Gen. Worth's forces was cut up by Mexican treachery at Puebla. I gave it to you in a former letter as a rumor. I have just been speaking with Mr. Diamond, the Collector, who has correct information direct from the British courier which arrived this morning from the city of Mexico—that the rumor is false. Gen. Scott is now in Puebla.

Santa Anna was elected President on the 15th May, but declines the honor—Gen. Herrera is the next prominent candidate—the election will take place on the 15th inst.—Gen. Bravo, the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in the interior, has resigned—Congress, or the seat of government, has been removed to a small place south of the City of Mexico—they are fortifying a hill a few miles this side of Mexico. The British courier represents that the City is in a most beautiful state of confusion. The Telegraph steamer arrived this morning, so that there is some prospect of being off to-morrow with some facts to relate to you in respect to the treatment of our soldiers here, which I think it my duty to communicate to the public, and which will be well authenticated. In my correspondence I will give rumor as rumor, and facts as facts.

Mr. Henriquez, who has just arrived from Jalapa, and was shot at several times upon the road, tells me that he saw three regulars and one volunteer publicly whipped, their hair shaved off, and drummed through the city in the presence of some two thousand Mexicans; they were accused of some petty affair by Mexicans. At the same time Mr. H. had his horse robbed, two of the robbers (Mexicans) were caught, and they were left without punishment. The same day two of our sentinels at Jalapa, were stabbed through the back, and no pains taken to discover the assassins. The sentry so partially extended towards the Mexicans is inconceivable, unless you become an eye witness. I understand the Governor has written for a force of about three hundred men to act as rangers between Jalapa and Vera Cruz. Our New-Orleans boys are of the right stamp for that business; they stand this climate much better than those who come from the north or west. Captain Dupuy's company are all well, whilst the other companies with him have a large number on the sick list.

Yours, &c.  
N.

FROM THE N. O. PICTURES, 9th inst.  
POSTSCRIPT.  
LATER FROM THE CITY OF MEXICO.

The schr Oregon, Capt. Whitney, arrived at an early hour this morning from Tampico, whence she sailed on the 2d inst. She brought over 22 discharged soldiers of the Baltimore Battalion; the remainder had sailed on the schooner Harris, and other vessels for this port. The steamship Fanny and Mary Kingsland had gone on to Tampico.

The report of Santa Anna's resignation had reached Tampico, but we are still uncertain if it has been accepted by Congress. The feelings of the people are manifestly much embittered against him.

From Tampico we have no local news of any interest.

By the arrival of the Oregon we are placed in possession of papers from the city of Mexico to the 22d of May. The latest papers previously received were to the 19th. Although these papers are not so late as some extracts from a letter we have already given, they contain interesting news. And first of the President.

The election, he it borne in mind, occurred on the 15th ult., and the returns are slowly coming in. We now learn that the States of San Luis Potosi and Guanajuato voted each for Angel Trias, the former Governor of Chihuahua.

The State of Vera Cruz voted for Gen. Herrera, and did not elect him, receiving eight votes and Santa Anna two.

Thus, then, stands the result, so far as we have any certain knowledge. Angel Trias has received the votes of the States of Mexico, San Luis Potosi, and Guanajuato. Gen. Herrera has the votes of Queretaro, Vera Cruz, and Michoacan. Senor Ocampo has received the vote of Puebla. This we think looks favorable for Gen. Herrera, who is much better known at home and abroad than Angel Trias. Gen. Santa Anna, so far as the papers inform us, has not been a candidate, save in Michoacan.

The Legislature of the great State of Jalisco decided by a vote of 14 to 12 that the decree of Congress ordering the election was unconstitutional, and they refused to go on with it. This is regarded as a step towards revolution and the ultimate independence of this State.

We have Santa Anna's address, published on the 20th ult., but it is too long to give this morning. One of his first acts upon resuming power was to issue a law restricting the freedom of the press. His Administration aims to consult the public sentiment—so says the Minister's new rescript—which can only be known through an untrammelled press.

Senors Rosa and Rondero have left the Ministry. Baranda was still Secretary of State, and Gen. Alonzo de la Parra, another portfolio vacant on the 23d, of Ministers having tendered their resignations.

The proceedings against Gen. Arista for the loss of the battles of the 8th and 9th of May, and the surrender of Matamoros, have been relinquished, with a view to his employment in the defence of the capital.

Col. Don Juan de Saltillo, the Mexicans are of course appalled, but as he moved south they were vastly alarmed for the fate of Durango. When they discovered or suspected his true intent, they breathed so much more freely, that it is ludicrous to read the letters they despatched to the capital.

The excesses of Gen. Ureca and his subordinate officers towards the Mexicans were, we have seen, loudly complained of, while his services in harassing the Americans are cheerfully acknowledged. We have all along felt sure that the Mexicans would be the first to cry out against guerrillas.

The order of Gen. Worth's entrance into Puebla is given with minuteness. His force is set down by the Mexicans at 4290, with thirteen pieces of artillery.

El Republicano has a long denunciatory article upon the "Partisans of Peace." It is almost the first acknowledgment from this source of the existence of such a party. Its strength is imputed to the divisions among the army.

On the 21st ult., the new constitution, founded upon that of 1824, was formally adopted. Santa Anna, Herrera, and the members of Congress swore to observe it, and this ceremony being over, they marched to the Cathedral, where a solemn Te Deum was celebrated.

The papers give accounts of revolutionary movements on the 21st, some 500 troops having revolted on the 21st ult., and declared against the State authorities.

We have only time to add that a paper has been started in the capital entitled El Razondador, which is opposed to the war, although it roundly denounces the conduct of the United States.

FROM BELIZE, HONDURAS.—We have a file of the Observer and Gazette, of Belize, Honduras, to the 15th of May. That paper has received letters and papers from Guatemala to the 22d of April, San Salvador to the 16th, and Tegucigalpa to the 19th. Every thing appears quiet. Trade of all kinds was represented as being very full. There was no political news of interest.

The Observer gives a statement of the logwood got out of Belize river this season up to the 8th of May. It gives 972 logs against 2523 at the same time last year, and the Observer predicts that the deficit at the close of the season will be yet greater. The reports from the North and South were equally encouraging, so that the Observer has no doubt that the product of the season will not exceed at farthest six millions of feet.

FROM RIO DE JANEIRO.—The brig Aconite, Perkins, from Rio de Janeiro, the 19th, arrived yesterday. Capt. Perkins reports the U. S. ship Columbus, and brig Bainbridge in port when the Aconite left. The latter had received orders to chase the brig Enterprise, a slave, reported off the coast with negroes, from the coast of Africa. The barque Hollander, Captain, left for New York same day, and the following American vessels were left in port: ship Countess, Drayton, for New York; barque St. Lawrence, Waite, do.; brig Oriskany and Paul Pry, both for Baltimore, uncertain.

FROM THE N. O. PICTURES, June 11.  
IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.  
Santa Anna's Letter of Resignation.

The schr Zenobia, Capt. Brown, arrived yesterday from Vera Cruz, whence she sailed on the 3d inst. The steamer Telegraph was to sail from Vera Cruz in two or three days. By this arrival a copy of the American Eagle of the 2d inst., was received in town, and through the kindness of a friend we have obtained the use of it. It contains Santa Anna's letter of resignation, which we give below, as translated by the editors of that paper. Congress had not acted upon it at last accounts.

The Eagle says that this resignation was followed up by that of Gen. Bravo, as Vice President. There is probably some confusion in this. As we understand it, the Vice Presidency was abolished to get rid of Gomez Farias, and has not been re-established. Gen. Bravo was recently in command at Puebla, and yet more recently was at the head of what is called the "Army of the Centre." He may have resigned this post.

The Eagle says that the election for President will take place on the 15th inst. By this we presume is meant that the votes will be officially counted, and the result declared. We have no further returns by this arrival, but the Eagle thinks Gen. Herrera will be the President.

Gen. Scott reached Puebla on the 28th ult., the day before Gen. Twiggs arrived there. Everything was quiet in the city, our soldiers and the inhabitants being apparently on the best of terms.

A small conspiring party of our troops had been met some twenty miles beyond Puebla. They had encountered no enemy so far. The Mexicans are erecting works a short distance this side of the capital, but the Eagle treats them as unimportant and not likely to be successful.

The Eagle gives us as a report that General Almonzo, a prisoner, on an accusation of holding correspondence with Gen. Scott. Benj. Thomas, sergeant major of the 1st infantry, died on Sunday the 30th ult., in Vera Cruz, and was buried on Monday morning with military honors. The sergeant was a valuable officer, says the Eagle, and his demise was regretted by all who knew him.

It has been ascertained that only one man was killed with Col. Sowers. The imprudence of the Colonel in venturing ahead of his party cost these two lives.

A naval expedition against Tabasco, under the Commodore in person, was talked of at Vera Cruz as about to start at once. The following vessels were mentioned as likely to compose it: The frigate Harlan, sloop-of-war John Adams, and schooner of war the Enterprise (now at Frontera), the Spirit (do.), the Scorpion, and the gun-boats Bouvia and Mahonesa. Should the sloop-of-war Albany arrive in time she would probably join in the expedition.

[Here follows Santa Anna's letter tendering his resignation as President pro tem. of the republic. As usual, it is full of bombast. He says he resigns as a last resort to prevent a revolution, which was about to take place in the City. Our limits will not permit us to give the letter to-day.]—Ed. Jour.

LATER FROM GEN. TAYLOR.  
Special Correspondence of the Pictorial.  
SALTILLO, MEXICO, May 17, 1847.

A long, tedious, eight days' fever having finally left me, am able to write you again with some little idea of what I am doing and to furnish you with a few items of news. I mentioned that a squadron of dragoons had gone out in pursuit of the guerrillas who had committed the recent outrage, that it appears I was mistaken, and that their mission was pacific and merely intended to endeavor to get back from our excellent friends, the Camanches, some American horses and mules which had accidentally found their way into their hands. Just now we are committing the error of justice has overtaken them, spoiled them, as they were, and half their number have been sent back to overtake their victims.

Lieut. Col. Doniphan's command arrived here yesterday morning. A party of five hundred men, camped the day before. This morning, before breakfast, a number of men came in and announced that on Friday last a detachment of Col. Doniphan's regiment, under command of Captain Reed, consisting of fifteen men and accompanied by Don Manuel Ibarra, a very wealthy citizen of Parras, who owns a very extensive vineyard, set out for the Rancho del Poco, about thirty miles from Parras, after the Indians. He furnished them all with fresh horses and they made a rapid march for del Poco. At the rancho they were joined by a party of twenty men, an advance of Col. Doniphan's command, and before long the Indians came up. The conflict was quite desperate, for the Indians fought like devils. Capt. Reed was wounded in the chin and shoulder by arrows, and several horses were killed. On the side of the Indians the slaughter was more deadly. The all-powerful rifle and the recent told warriors to "bite the dust," and the red devils, leaving most of their plunder and the greater portion of their women and children. We also captured a hundred head of horses and mules which they had stolen. Don Manuel, who is spoken of as brave as he is generous and hospitable, put the main command of these Indians were Lippans, and not Camanches, it is said. You will hardly believe, that after this generous conduct on the part of our troops in riding an enemy's country, on the 4th inst., whereby some twenty or twenty-five persons were killed, and some horses and mules were captured, presents another lamentable exhibition of their recklessness and conduct which too frequently characterizes those individuals having charge of the lives and property of the travelling community.—This boat was under the charge, I understand, of the clerk, Mr. Johnson, and the chief mate, and the conduct of the crew during her passage up and down the river was the subject of conversation by every one. They were evidently in a state of excitement, and were supposed to have been under the influence of ardent spirits. When she arrived at Columbia many persons on shore remarked that she would certainly blow up, such was the peculiar whizzing sound escaping from her, and which was heard before she made the land. Here we laid about three-quarters of an hour, during which time not a particle of water had been thrown into the boilers; and when she rounded off the explosion took place, shivering the boat into countless fragments, tearing the boilers into numerous pieces, and throwing them from one to four hundred yards.—The groans of the wounded, the shrieks of the drowning, and the consternation depicted upon the countenances of the survivors, excited description. Many lives were saved by the prompt and efficient aid of the kind citizens of Columbia. They were untiring in their efforts to render succor; nor had they ceased their exertions to recover bodies at the time of our departure. I understand that this boat has been running since 1840, and that her boilers were unsafe. Whether she had a certificate from the inspector or not, I am not informed. If so, I am the more convinced of the inefficiency of our inspection laws, or the manner in which such inspections are made. Several bodies have been recovered. I cannot close this painful recital without returning my grateful thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of Columbia for their kindness and attention. JOHN B. LEVINS, of South Carolina, for himself and WM. EVANS, and J. J. STRINGER.

FROM THE N. O. PICTURES, June 5.  
ARRIVAL OF THE PORPOISE.

The letter which we subjoin, furnishes most interesting information in regard to the cruise of the Porpoise, and naval operations of the Commodore of the Gulf Squadron.

U. S. BRIG PORPOISE,  
New Orleans, June 4.

To the Editors of the Pictorial:—You have a list of the officers of this vessel, just returned from a long and arduous cruise in the Gulf. The officers are—Wm. E. Hunt, lieutenant; Geo. Mauley, passed assistant surgeon; R. H. Wyman, acting master; Beverly Randolph, passed midshipman; Watson, Smith, midshipman; Wm. A. Doyle, captain's clerk; A. F. Thompson, boatswain.

I can give you but little news. Com. Perry hoisted the American flag at the town of Laguna, on the island of Carmen, Yucatan, on the 17th of April, the Porpoise firing a national salute, and the American residents, with the officers and crews of the men of war, then in port, giving the stars and stripes a hearty cheer. The Commodore, on the same day, called a meeting of the authorities, inviting the merchants to attend, and informed them that he had taken possession of the island, and would hold it in the name of the United States. He declared the port open to the commerce of all nations. By thus holding Laguna and its dependencies, all communication between Yucatan and Texas, by water, can be prevented. The bomb brig Vesuvius was left at Laguna, and Lieut. Castejón detached from this vessel and appointed, temporarily, collector or superintendent of the customs.

Com. Perry returned to Vera Cruz on the 24th ult., and his intention was, as soon as he had arranged some business matters there, to return to Laguna, and thence visit Campeche, where the sloop of war Albany, and brig Washington, had already preceded him, for the purpose of making inquiry concerning certain contraband trade with the interior. The Commodore had the honor to receive advice of our sources upon which he had placed much reliance. He also ascertained that in the position (or rather positions) which the Yucatans have assumed during the war, our Government has been treated with the most contemptible duplicity, and his intention was, as declared to the authorities at Laguna, in case they did not absolve themselves from all connection and intercourse with the Mexican States, and adhere to their absolute, to "sack and destroy" the city of Campeche, and such other places on the sea-board as pursued the same course.

The Porpoise left Laguna on the 19th ult. for Vera Cruz, carrying passengers to that place, the family of Mr. Farris, our late consul at Laguna, who disappeared some time since near the Tabasco river, (supposed to be drowned) also, Mr. E. T. Harrison, passenger, and Captain White, master of the English barque Mathew Pierre, which was lost at the eastern end of Carmen, in April last. We left Vera Cruz on the 25th ult., bringing with us Captain Wile and Mr. Harrison to this place. There was no news at Vera Cruz but such as you have, no doubt, previously learned.

Lieut. James Lawrence Parker is on board the flag ship, and is, I am happy to say, rapidly recovering from the effects of his wound received at Tusan, and will again shortly be ready and eager for the fray.

As we are accompanied by a prize schooner, captured by the gunboat Bonita, in charge of Passed Midshipman Thompson, which comes here for adjudication.

The Porpoise is sent here for repairs, after a cruise of nearly two years and a half in the Gulf, during which time she has not been permitted to lie in any port for a single week.—The only rest she has had was at Laguna, Yucatan, where she was sent about the middle of April, and remained there until Com. Perry arrived and hoisted the American flag, on the 17th of May. During the past winter, while blockading Vera Cruz and Tampico, she has been in seventeen hotbers, some of them of the "tallest kind," the last of which came near sending her down among the funny prototypes. At the time it commenced, we were blockading to the northward of the castle of San Juan de Ulloa, while the attack was being made on the city of Vera Cruz by our army, and were blown off on the evening of 25th March. Next day about noon the brig was struck by two heavy seas in quick succession, the first causing her to stand still, and the second sweeping her decks and throwing her on her beam ends, at the same time sinking in her weak hammock, netting and all the boats, &c., stove amidships, forcing them into the waist, then under water. She remained in that situation about fifteen or twenty minutes, when, through great exertions on the part of her officers and men, the boats, sails, &c., with nearly all the lee battens, were hoisted by both ends, when she floated righted with two feet water on her decks; no one, however, felt secure until evening, when the wind grew lighter and the sea commenced going down. To me, never having been placed in precisely the same situation, it was surprising to see the coolness and energy (with a sudden and horrible death staring them in the face) exhibited by both officers and crew, from the commanding officer to the smallest boy on board. Not a word was spoken of danger until it was past, when all acknowledged it.

The Porpoise has been one of the most effective and useful vessels in the squadron, and has sailed a greater number of miles than any other vessel in the fleet. She has, however, been much injured by such continued hard work and hard weather, and now comes to this city to be repaired and coppered. It is understood that her officers, in consideration of their laborious and faithful service during the cruise, are to have leave of absence to visit their homes, and that the crew will be discharged and paid off.

Yours, &c.,  
PORPOISE.

FROM THE N. O. PICTURES, Extra, June 9.  
DREADFUL STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.  
TWENTY LIVES LOST.

The steamer Admiral arrived this morning in port, and brings intelligence that the steamer Edna, Captain Phillips, on her way down from Ouachita, met with a dreadful accident. On the 4th inst., when opposite the town of Columbia, just before reaching the wharf, all four of her boilers exploded, killing twenty or more persons, and severely wounding several others.

The boat sunk immediately, and nearly every thing on board was lost. Seventeen bodies had been found on the 7th inst.

The Admiral brought down several of the wounded.

Since the above was written we have been placed in possession of the following letter in regard to this deplorable catastrophe:

Gentlemen.—The recent explosion of the steamboat Edna at Columbia, on the Ouachita river, on the 4th inst., whereby some twenty or twenty-five persons were killed, and some horses and mules were captured, presents another lamentable exhibition of their recklessness and conduct which too frequently characterizes those individuals having charge of the lives and property of the travelling community.—This boat was under the charge, I understand, of the clerk, Mr. Johnson, and the chief mate, and the conduct of the crew during her passage up and down the river was the subject of conversation by every one. They were evidently in a state of excitement, and were supposed to have been under the influence of ardent spirits. When she arrived at Columbia many persons on shore remarked that she would certainly blow up, such was the peculiar whizzing sound escaping from her, and which was heard before she made the land. Here we laid about three-quarters of an hour, during which time not a particle of water had been thrown into the boilers; and when she rounded off the explosion took place, shivering the boat into countless fragments, tearing the boilers into numerous pieces, and throwing them from one to four hundred yards.—The groans of the wounded, the shrieks of the drowning, and the consternation depicted upon the countenances of the survivors, excited description. Many lives were saved by the prompt and efficient aid of the kind citizens of Columbia. They were untiring in their efforts to render succor; nor had they ceased their exertions to recover bodies at the time of our departure. I understand that this boat has been running since 1840, and that her boilers were unsafe. Whether she had a certificate from the inspector or not, I am not informed. If so, I am the more convinced of the inefficiency of our inspection laws, or the manner in which such inspections are made. Several bodies have been recovered. I cannot close this painful recital without returning my grateful thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of Columbia for their kindness and attention. JOHN B. LEVINS, of South Carolina, for himself and WM. EVANS, and J. J. STRINGER.

THE CITY OF PUEBLA.  
Gen. Worth's army took possession of Puebla on the 15th May. It has about 50,000 inhabitants. The city is neat and clean—far more so than the city of Mexico—streets broad and well paved, and the common people more comfortable and better dressed than those of the city of Mexico. The dwellings are usually those of Mexico. The dwellings are usually inhabited by one family. Churches and convents are more numerous, in proportion to the population, than in any part of the country. The friars are less, and the secular clergy more numerous. A river skirts the eastern side of the city, affording extensive water power—and on its banks are public walks and fountains. West of the city is the convent of St. Francis, and in full view of the two great volcanoes, Iztacubal and Popocatepetl, rising to the sky with their tops of eternal snow. In the centre of the city is the great square, surrounded on two sides by public buildings erected on arches. On the south side of the great square, equal to the city of Mexico. Indeed, this church at Puebla is the most splendid in the country, and its popularity and wealth have been greatly augmented by an occurrence which is said to have taken place at its construction. The building gained mysteriously during the night, as much as the masons built during the day. The clerk declared that this was the work of angels, hence the name of the church—Puebla de los Angeles. From the centre of the great dome is suspended an immense chandelier, of solid gold and silver, weighing about ten tons.—Such is the extent of this chandelier that it costs four thousand dollars to clean it. Next to this in grandeur is the great altar, built of costly marble, with its massive gold and silver railings; under the altar is the tomb of the bishops, which is a large silver lamp is kept constantly burning. To the right of the altar is a figure of the Holy Virgin, nearly as large as life, dressed in the richest embroidered stuff, with strings of the largest pearls hanging from her head below her knees. Around her brow is a crown of gold, inlaid with the largest emeralds. Her waist is encircled by a zone of diamonds, of which those in the centre are constantly falling, and the most precious of the cathedral are around the altar are of gold and silver, so massive that a powerful man cannot lift them. Immediately above the altar is a smaller one, the interior of which, during service, is exposed or concealed by velvet, without any one apparently moving it. From this altar, a series of pews of priceless and innumerable jewels, is extended to the kneeling multitude. A large picture of St. Peter, suspended above the Bishop's chair, is made by the inlaying of various woods, but so skillfully executed that it looks like a fine oil painting.

Indeed the Cathedral is a mine of wealth and splendor. In her pearly days Puebla boasted sixty-nine churches, nine monasteries, thirteen nunneries, and twenty-three colleges, and her manufactures have recently declined, like everything else in Mexico; but in opening their gates to the American army, the Pueblos and their Clergy have exhibited an appreciation of enlightened government, which speaks well for their intelligence. They will now find protection under our flag, and instead of being robbed and plundered by military chiefs, they will be protected by our army, and be made available for the happiness of themselves and their country.—N. Y. Sun.

THE POISONING CASE IN SHELBY COUNTY, TEXAS.

Of this case, so fiendish in its conception, so diabolical in its execution, and so mournfully fatal in its results, we have the following particulars from Mr. Stille, who was the first to inform the public of the tragic occurrence, through the Delta. Many at the time doubted its truth, for it was hard to conceive how any mind could be so totally depraved, as to so all the feeling of nature and humanity, as to perpetrate on innocent and unsuspecting victims such wholesale murder. Yet true it is, too true, bearing about it though it does all the malignant and frightful features of the first account. Old Wilkinson, it is now seen from Mr. Stille's letter, is the demon incarnate who did the deed—his crime is constantly evident from the fact of his sending so greedily a share of the poisoned meats to Spot Sanders, whom he deemed his enemy, or at least, whose enemy he was.—But they are now in hot pursuit of him, and should they come up with him, they will wish that

the slave had forty thousand lives! One is too poor, too weak for their revenge! But we will not detain the reader from Mr. Stille's letter:

BAYOU SARA, MAY 23, 1847.

DEAR — I returned from a flying visit to Hamilton yesterday, and learned some more particulars in relation to the poisoning—fifteen are dead, and some eight or ten are expected to die daily—some got better, but took a relapse and died. The poison was arsenic. I will relate the circumstance as I heard it:

It appears that old Wilkinson was a man of bad character, a notorious hog thief—and Morris, the groom, had been twice whipped in Mississippi for negro stealing. Wilkinson was accused of stealing the hogs of Spot Sanders, and you will perceive from what follows, how he revenged himself. He sent to the house of Sanders, who lives some two or three miles from him, and who was not at the time, a young female, named Julia, with three chickens, some chicken pie, butter, pound cake, &c., enough to last the family a week, all poisoned, even to the butter, which was elegantly molded.—The family eat of it.—Mrs. Sanders, three children, and a negro boy are dead—the other, and only child left, was dying when I was at our friend Kerr's. Mr. Sanders, a poor negro, who happened to be in the house, was also poisoned, and died. Poor Mrs. Sanders did not know that her children were dead or dying, and told her husband to rear them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. She requested, when dying, that her negroes should come and bid her farewell—they could not, all being poisoned. Mr. Sanders' mother, Allen Haley lost a young wife, a victim also. She died by the same means. Her husband was one of the servants at the wedding, and took him a piece of the pound cake—he ate two months' full, and not liking the taste of it, he ate no more—yet that killed him. An old lady by the name of Elens, made the cakes, and she was poisoned, together with her son and a negro girl—the girl is dead, and her son not expected to recover. The daughter that was left at Sanders' was thrown out, and some fowls eat of it and died in a few minutes. Allen Haley and his mother were the only persons at the wedding not poisoned.—They came late, after the guests were served, and eat with the family, partaking of the same food they did—even to the cake. Old Wilkinson insisted on cutting a fresh cake for them, but they refused to touch it, and he escaped death by their refusal. The lady that made the cakes, Mrs. Elens, went on the morning of the wedding day to look at the cakes, in the smoke house, where she had put them, and found that the covering she had put on the top of them, was removed from a hole in the wall, and the cakes were all eaten, and she took some loaf sugar, which she had grated, and put over them, thinking it strange that they were so disarranged. Old Wilkinson and his wife, and Morris' wife, were arrested and examined before Squire Sanders, who committed them to prison.—Charles Alexander bailed the women, and Wilkinson was taken out by a writ of habeas corpus before the justice of the peace, and set at liberty. He was afraid to leave the house during the day, as there were persons determined on killing him. During the night he escaped on Morris' horse, which Morris brought to him. Eight persons are in pursuit after him, who have sworn to kill him on sight. Mrs. Arns is Wilkinson's agent—he was ordered to leave, and he was whipped, and then hung.